REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration of the rejections.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 10, 14-21, 23 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koshino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,326) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,601).

Claim 1 recites determining whether or an occupancy criterion of a buffer storing received audio and video frames has been met and if so obtaining an initial time stamp value from an initial frame. The Examiner points to column 3, lines 25-27 for this element. Applicants respectfully submit that notifying the completion of receiving a data block does not meet the occupancy criterion. However, even if this element is set forth in the claim, there is no conditional aspect to this element. That is, there is no consequence if the occupancy criteria are met in the Koshino reference.

Claim 1 also recites obtaining a subsequent time stamp value from a subsequent frame, computing an initial parameter based on the initial time stamp value, computing a subsequent parameter based on the subsequent time stamp value, determining if the computed initial and subsequent parameters coincide, and, if so, outputting corresponding audio and/or video frames for decoding and display. The Examiner cites column 6, lines 16-19 and lines 19-50 for meeting this criteria. Also, the Examiner cites column 7, lines 43-51 for citing that the DV frame data is time code. Applicants agree that the DV frame data recited in column 7 of the Koshino reference

describes title time code particular to the DV frame data. The title time code is referred to in hours, minutes, seconds and frames.

After reviewing column 6, lines 20-50, Applicants disagree that the two obtaining steps, the two computing steps, and the determining steps are not set forth in this passage. More particularly, the steps of computing an initial parameter based on the initial time stamp value and computing a subsequent parameter based on the subsequent time stamp value are not taught or suggested. Further, the step of determining if the computed initial and subsequent parameters coincide is also not set forth. It appears that column 6 is mainly concerned about when a recording is to take place. However, no computing of parameters is set forth. The Examiner does not specifically set forth a teaching for each of these steps, but rather generally rejects each step based on column 6, lines 20-50 and column 7, lines 43-51,

Further, the step of outputting corresponding audio and/or video frames for decoding and display is performed if the step of determining if the computed initial and subsequent parameters coincide. Thus, if the parameters do not coincide, the step of outputting is not performed. The Examiner points to the Okada reference for outputting corresponding audio and video frames for decoding and display. Neither the Koshino reference nor the Okada reference teaches the conditional aspect at the end of the determining step. Also, Applicants agree that outputting audio and video is set forth in the Okada reference. However, the outputting of audio and video frames for decoding and display is performed if the computed initial and subsequent parameters coincide. Also, Applicants respectfully submit that no teaching of frames is set forth in the Okada reference.

Independent claim 14 is also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 27 recites computing a subsequent parameter based on a subsequent video time stamp value of a subsequent video frame and comparing the computed parameters, a coincidence between the two indicating a valid subsequent video time stamp and synchronizing an audio frame to the subsequent video frame based on the valid subsequent video time stamp. Applicants respectfully submit that these steps are not taught or suggested in either the Okada reference or the Koshino reference, or the combination thereof.

Claim 29 corresponds to claim 27 and is also believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 9 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koshino et al. in view of Okada et al. and further in view of Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,580).

Claims 9 and 22 depend from claims 6 and 19 respectively. The Ueda reference does not teach or suggest the elements missing from the Koshino and Okada references.

Claims 11-13 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koshino et al. in view of Okada et al. and further in view of Brewer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,777).

Claims 11-13 and claims 24-26 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 14. The Brewer reference also does not teach the elements missing from the Koshino and Okada references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

U.S.S.N. 10/079,992   12   RECEIVED
                                          CENTRAL FAX CENTER   PD-201206
                                                FEB 27 2007

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit that all objections and rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Should any fees be associated with this submission, please charge Deposit Account 50-0383.

Respectfully submitted,
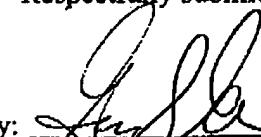
Dated: February 27, 2007   By: _____
                                      Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179
                                      Attorney for Applicants

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA/LA1/A109
2230 East Imperial Highway
P.O. Box 956
El Segundo, CA 90245
Telephone: (310) 964-4615